

Serial No.: 09/943,470

REMARKS

Claims 2-22 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 2, 5-10, 12, 15 and 20-22 are amended herein. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 2-6, 8-11 and 15-19. The Examiner notes that these claims will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form (including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims).

Claims 2, 5, 6, 8-10 and 15 have been amended herein to independent form. Accordingly, these claims together with claims 3, 4, 11 and 16-19 which depend therefrom should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. Accordingly, claims 7 and 12 should also now be in condition for allowance. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12 either directly or indirectly, and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 20-22 each correspond to original apparatus claim 1. Applicants have amended claims 20-22 so as each to include the features of allowable claim 2. As a result, claims 20-22 should be in condition for allowance for reasons similar to claim 2.

In view of the above amendments, all pending claims 2-22 should now be in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 7, 12-14 AND 20-22 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 7, 12-14 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Kim et al.* in view of *Karino*.

Based on the amendments discussed above, the rejection of claims 1, 7, 12-14 and 20-22 is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 2-22 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

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The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113
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